

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
DECLARATION.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
ABBREVIATIONS.....	xx
ABSTRACT	xxii
1. Introduction	1
2. Review of Literature	7
2.1. Abiotic stresses.....	7
2.1.1. High temperature stress.....	7
2.2.1. Salinity stress	10
2.3.1. Drought stress	15
2.2. Mitigation of abiotic stresses.....	19
2.2.1. Seed priming.....	20
2.2.2 Foliar application	20
3. Materials and Methods	27
3.1. Source of moringa leaves.....	27
3.2. Analysis of moringa leaves.....	27
3.3. Preparation of MLE.....	27
3.4. Plant material.....	30
3.5. Crop season	30
3.6. Experimental sites	30
3.7. Experiment I: Optimization of <i>moringa oleifera</i> leaf extract (MLE) dilutions..	30
3.8. Experiment II: Evaluation of MLE as priming agent.....	31
3.9. Experiment III: Evaluating the growth and development of Tomato to exogenous application of MLE (pot study).....	39
3.10. Experiment IV: Evaluating the growth and development of pea to application of MLE (pot study)	42
3.11. Experiment V: Evaluating the response of late sown wheat to foliar application of MLE under field conditions	43
3.12. Experiment VI: Mitigating effects of salinity stress in wheat by MLE application.....	46
3.13. Experiment VII: Mitigating effects of drought stress in wheat by MLE application	48
3.14. Statistical analysis	50
4. Results and Discussion.....	51
4.1. Experiment 1. Optimization of MLE dilution.....	51
4.2. Experiment II: Evaluation of MLE as priming agent	57
4.3. Experiment III: Evaluating the growth and development of tomato to	

exogenous application of MLE (pot study).....	70
4.4. Experiment IV: Evaluating the growth and development of pea to exogenous application of MLE (pot study).....	81
4.5. Experiment V: Response of late sown wheat to foliar application of MLE under field conditions.....	89
4.6. Experiment VI: Response of wheat to exogenous application of MLE under saline stress conditions	99
4.7. Experiment VII: Response of wheat to exogenous application of MLE under drought stress conditions	113
General Discussion.....	121
Summary.....	124
LITERATURE CITED.....	126